



NOAA FISHERIES

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

NMFS Extends Comment Period for Draft Amendment 7 (Bluefin Tuna Management Measures) Proposed Rule

September 17, 2013

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the extension of the comment period for the proposed rule to implement management measures in Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (78 FR 52032, August 21, 2013). The proposed measures would reduce and account for Atlantic bluefin tuna dead discards, revise bluefin quota allocations, and enhance monitoring and reporting in the incidental and directed bluefin fisheries, among other fishery management measures. In the proposed rule, NMFS announced the end of the comment period as October 23, 2013, which allowed an approximately 60-day comment period. Given the length and complexity of the rule, and to provide additional time for constituents to consider the proposed rule in light of any new recommendations by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas at its November 2013 meeting, NMFS is extending the comment period for this action until December 10, 2013 to provide additional opportunities for public comment. The comment period is being extended from October 23, 2013, to December 10, 2013, to provide additional opportunities for comment from the public and other interested parties.

Submit Comments by December 10, 2013:

You may submit comments (identified by “NOAA-NMFS-2013-0101”) by using any one of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0101-0001>, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- **Mail:** Thomas Warren, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
- **Fax:** 978-281-9340, Attn: Thomas Warren

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule and draft environmental impact statement, or to request copies of the proposed rule and supporting documents contact Thomas Warren at 978-281-9260. The information is also be available at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/hms/AM7.htm.

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